

# THE INDEPENDENT

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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

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## WINDER CASE STIRS UP CAMPAIGN AGAINST VICE

### Crusade Against Spooling, Dancing and Theatre Going — Why the Rev. Williams Resigned Presidency of Ministerial Association.

A moral and spiritual clean-up campaign in Elizabeth City was launched at a mothers' and ministers' meeting under the auspices of the local W. C. T. U. held in the assembly room of the Y. M. C. A. Wednesday afternoon. Just as national clean-up week is going after tin cans, rubbish heaps, dirty back yards and diseased humanity this week, just so will the militant church folk of this gay old town go after jazz-spirited girls, licentious young men, back-sliding married men and incontinent married women. At the same time moving pictures are slated for a slaughter. The campaign begins with a mass meeting for adults only at the First Baptist Church in this city Sunday night, April 17.

The campaign was launched at one of the most sensational and unique meetings ever held in this city of sensations. The meeting was prompted by the startling facts brought out in the case of L. Winder, local real estate man, who was indicted last week on several charges of improper conduct with girls in shorts skirts. Winder's case is docketed for a preliminary hearing in the Recorder's Court Monday morning, April 11. Winder's attorneys threaten to expose a terrible condition in Elizabeth City and it is hinted that the names of other men will be dragged into the mess. Winder is not only bold enough to face the thing and fight it out, but will not hesitate, it is said, to involve others in an effort to destroy the characters of the prosecuting witnesses and thereby secure a mitigation of punishment for himself.

### Ministers Hear Too Many Sex Stories.

That was a stormy meeting at the Y. M. C. A. Wednesday and the arguments would make a volume of thrillers. It was brought out at the meeting that Rev. H. K. Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church has resigned as President of the Ministerial Association because to him the Ministerial Association had degenerated into little more than a gossip club at which sex stories were retailed week after week. Pastor Williams said he was so tired of hearing stories of the sex life of Elizabeth City people week after week that he had resigned as president of the Association. And then Mr. Williams told a story himself. He said that one of the older male members of his church had told him that he thought he would have to quit wearing his spectacles because the sights he saw of women in short skirts plagued his soul. The poor brother had seen one short skirt transacting business in a bank that was so short and so enticing that he almost forgot his own business with the bank. Open that window!

### Ex-Communication For Movie Goers.

But Pastor Williams was soon to be eclipsed. Rev. Geo. Studson DeLano, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, took the floor and told them a few things. He said most of the immorality in this town could be traced to moving pictures and indecent clothing. And before he got thru he said the churches didn't have back-bone enough to fight the evils of the day and accused the churches of being more concerned with hypocrisy than with religion. He gave a bold and intimate description of a young girl in short skirts and low neck dress in the hot embrace of a giddy-headed boy in a hot ball room. The contact of warm, excited and pleasurable flesh was just too much; girls in such situations were bound to go to the bad. Pastor DeLano has been a youngster himself and he is a graduate in medicine. He says he knows. And then he went on to condemn the clothes of the present generation of women. He says they are designed by and for Parisian prostitutes and we send to Parisian prostitutes for our feminine styles. "Decent women in Paris wouldn't wear such clothes." Pastor DeLano says he has lived in Paris and knows what he is talking about.

But the moving pictures were worse still. And Rev. DeLano brought out the startling fact that members of the church are asked to sign a pledge not to go to the Alkrama Theatre, and when it is discovered to have broken the pledge he or she is ex-communicated in-stantly and thrust into chaos and black-ness. He thinks every church in the city should adopt the same drastic measure against the Alkrama Theatre.

In meantime the women were talking; sometimes several of them all at once. Mrs. J. W. Modlin, vigorous, militant and most positive in her utterances took the floor and demanded that the Alkrama Theatre be closed up at once. The time to do it was now, right now. She was finally persuaded that confiscating another's business could only be accomplished by due process of law and that

the business had some rights that carried a long way with the law.

### Wants Men Looked After.

Mrs. Jay Scott, a prominent worker in First Baptist Church, got the floor and said she thought the sins of young girls had been too much stressed and that they ought to do something with the men. She said if she heard things right, married men of this town needed a drubbing and that any crusade against immorality should make licentious and corrupt men the main objective. She believed that male lawyers and the freemasonry of men of Winder's type would get Winder out of his troubles with a clean bill of health or a minimum penalty. She had known the escapades of men to be covered up. But the world never let up on an erring woman.

It is utterly impossible to chronicle everything brought out at Wednesday's meeting. It was even charged that the Community Rest Room in the Hinton Building, once maintained by the merchants, now maintained by the private purse of a philanthropic woman, is used for immoral purposes.

That's nothing, whispered one woman to another who told of a couple using the front porch of a fashionable home on Pennsylvania Avenue while the family was in the house. And the wife of the house, coming down stairs in the dark for something discovered them.

### Open some more windows!

The meeting became a riot of talk and it was restrained with difficulty. A few cool heads like Rev. J. M. Ormond of First Methodist Church finally subdued the tumult and got down to brass tacks. Mr. Ormond told of the efforts of the ministers to persuade the proprietors of the Alkrama to improve the moral tone of the local scene. He said the movie men had promised anything but that promises had not been kept. Asked for a statement about the meeting and just what he himself had to say, Mr. Ormond politely declined. Mr. Ormond was asked for a statement because he is now president of the Ministerial Association, succeeding the Rev. Williams.

## MR. KING HERE IN INTEREST OF CANAL

### If Government Does Not Purchase Dismal Swamp Canal, Elizabeth City Is The Loser.

M. K. King, president of the Dismal Swamp Canal Co., who is in Elizabeth City this week in conference with Chamber of Commerce officials and prominent citizens, insists that if Elizabeth City loses the Dismal Swamp Canal it will be because of the apathy of Elizabeth City.

Prior to the opening free of toll the government owned Chesapeake & Albemarle canal, the Dismal Swamp Canal carried 75 to 80 per cent of the water borne commerce between the Chesapeake Bay and the inland waters of North Carolina. The Dismal Swamp Canal was a money maker in its day and under the management of Mr. King it paid off its indebtedness, made extensive improvements and put aside a surplus. That surplus is fast being exhausted, since traffic has been diverted to the free government canal miles away from Elizabeth City.

An effort is being made to persuade Congress to buy the Dismal Swamp Canal and maintain it in the interest of the cities of Elizabeth City and Hampton Roads and in the interest of the 25,000 people who could be profitably served by this canal. Mr. King wants the active support of Elizabeth City people of influence in urging Congress to consider the purchase.

## SOME ECONOMIC FACTS FROM CITY DIRECTORY

Here are some little economic facts revealed by the new city directory of Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City has 17 lawyers and 29 preachers. And even 46 lawyers and preachers can't keep us all straight, tho they all manage to make a living trying.

There are also 90 retail grocers in Elizabeth City, or an average of a grocery store for every 25 families, if we count five to a family. The ratio is worse than that, but then we must admit that our population is as small as given by the last census.

Of the 29 preachers in Elizabeth City, 12 are white and 17 are colored. But of the 17 lawyers, there is only one colored. The list of 90 retail grocers does not include nine wholesale grocers, say nothing of jobbers.

Some things the directory does not list; it does not list a dairy, a public library, a hospital, a city park, or a play ground, as well as some other things a proud citizen is ashamed to mention.

—John Elliott, one of the wealthiest men in Cumberland county, committed suicide at his home about five miles from Fayetteville, by blowing the top of his head off with a double barreled shot gun.

## Drainage Owes Much to this Man



DR. JOSEPH HYDE PRATT.

Director North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey and Secretary of the Drainage Association. Dr. Pratt has been Secretary of the Association since its organization in 1908, with the exception of one year when he was president. As Director of the Geological and Economic Survey he has largely had charge of the administration of the drainage law.

## ALDERMEN HAVE RECEIVED OFFER

### But Will Not Buy Electric Light and Water Plants Until People Are Heard.

The Board of Aldermen of Elizabeth City have received a proposition from The Electric Light Co. of Elizabeth City and its associated water and sewerage companies, looking to the purchase of these properties by the city. Col. Dabney H. Maury, of Norfolk, who was employed by the city as an advisory engineer several months ago, was called to the city this week to confer with the Aldermen on the proposition now before them.

Just how much the Baltimoreans, who own these public service properties, want for them is not revealed. Mayor Gaither deems it inadvisable to make the offer public, but candidly states that he considers it a high figure and assures the public that the Aldermen will take no action until the proposition is submitted to the tax payers of the city for their approval.

That Elizabeth City will have to purchase the existing electric light, water and sewerage properties or build its own electric light, water and sewerage plant outright is a foregone conclusion. The city must have sewerage and the owners of the sewerage company have thrown up their hands. The city is thus forced into municipal ownership of sewerage. Sewerage is so bound up with the water problem that the city must own water works in connection with its sewerage. Again, the existing water works are bound up with the electric light proposition. And so there is nothing for Elizabeth City to do but plunge wholesale into municipal ownership of light, water and sewerage. How to go about it? That's the question with which the Board of Aldermen is wrestling determinedly right now and something is about to come to a head.

## CUBS TO PLAY EDENTON.

The Elizabeth City Cubs baseball team will journey to Edenton Friday afternoon to play the much touted Edenton club. The Cubs was the only Elizabeth City team, without help from other teams, to defeat the strong Edenton nine last year, and did it on the Edenton grounds. They are determined to turn the trick again Friday.

—Governor Cameron Morrison and State Treasurer B. R. Lacy are in New York this week, and will visit other financial centers to investigate the feasibility of a present issue of bonds or the sale of short term notes to provide for road construction, and institutional expansion authorized by the 1921 session of the General Assembly. Probable demands for upwards of 15 million dollars for roads and institutional buildings during the fiscal year is confronting the Governor and his cabinet. The total of the immediate issue is said to be around five million dollars.

## VOTE TO-DAY FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

To-day, Friday, April 8, should go down in history as one of the biggest days in the history of Elizabeth City. To-day the citizens of Elizabeth City will vote on the question of a bond issue of \$400,000 for public schools in Elizabeth City. With \$400,000 Elizabeth City can pay off the present floating indebtedness on the schools, acquire more school grounds and build and equip modern school buildings to compare with any in the state.

There is no mistake about the need of this investment in larger and better equipped schools. It is not alone the opinions of teachers, students and parents of the town that this investment is needed, but Federal experts have surveyed our schools, shown the defects of our present equipment and methods and emphasized our needs.

We are told that a bond issue of \$400,000 will increase our tax rate 16 cents on the \$100. That is a small price to pay for good schools. The biggest tax payers in the city are in favor of the bond issue. Surely the smaller tax payers can not protest.

A workman has given this newspaper his reason why he will vote for the bond issue. He says: "I have five children. I would like to leave them at least \$10,000 a piece when I die; but that is out of the question; I will never be able to lay up that much money. BUT IF I CAN LEAVE THEM A GOOD EDUCATION THEY WILL HAVE WHAT'S WORTH MORE THAN \$10,000 A PIECE. And nobody will be able to steal it away from them. I am going to vote for that bond issue and I will consider the taxes, I pay the best money I could ever spend."

When workmen talk like that it is safe to predict the result of to-day's election. The Jr. O. U. A. M., one of the strongest organizations in the city, composed largely of working-men, is solidly behind the bond issue. The best men and women in the town are behind the bond issue. And if it fails to carry in to-day's election it will only be because voters stay at home.

## WARD AMONG FIRST TO LAND IN WASHINGTON

### New First District Congressman On The Job Early and Knows What He Wants.

The first of the North Carolina Congressmen to arrive in Washington is Hon. Hallet S. Ward of the first district. Congressman Ward landed in Washington this week. One of his first acts was to visit the navy department and pay a political debt by naming Grice McMullen, a son of Hon. P. W. McMullen of this city, for the vacancy in this district at Annapolis. Upon his arrival in Washington he talked freely to newspaper men.

Speaking of matters in which he would take an interest, Mr. Ward said "anyone from the first district would favor the complete opening of the inland waterway from Norfolk to Beaufort, which would mean a passageway through Hyde county; and then there should be an airplane service along the coast out from Norfolk." Besides this, Mr. Ward declared that the civil docket of the federal courts in North Carolina was so overcrowded that there should be relief; that the oldest cases on the docket in the Eastern district could never be reached, no matter how diligent the judge and that there should be an inferior court that could handle the cases. He favored the establishment of federal courts like reporters court's with a commissioner to preside, the cases to be heard by jury, the stipulation to be that only a lawyer, and a good lawyer at that, should be a commissioner.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 10TH.

The Board of Aldermen of Elizabeth City have designated Tuesday, May 10, 1921, as the date of the bi-ennial election of Aldermen and Mayor of Elizabeth City. Official notice of the election appears elsewhere in this newspaper. Two members of the Board of Aldermen are to be elected from each ward and the city at large will elect a Mayor.

## DRAINAGE MEET WILL BRING BIG MEN HERE

### Federal Farm Loan Board, Interstate Commerce Commission, U. S. Public Health Service, All To Be Represented By Men of National Prominence.

## CHAMBER COMMERCE INVITES FARMERS

## APPLAUD TAR HEEL ORATORS

### Portsmouthians Banquet and Boost For Dismal Swamp Highway To This City

More than 250 citizens of Portsmouth, Va. and their guests gathered at a banquet in that city last Thursday night gave a rousing ovation to Walter L. Cohoon, of Elizabeth City after he had made a thirty-minute address on the need for an improved highway connecting the state highway system of North Carolina and Virginia via Portsmouth and Elizabeth City. The audience had listened to other speakers, but Cohoon brought down the house. The crowd cheered and applauded. Hand clapping wasn't enough. These otherwise mild-mannered Portsmouthians pounded with their feet. They liked the North Carolina brand of spread-eagle oratory; they wanted more of it. And they got it. Next on the program was Congressman Hallet S. Ward. Ward's voice was never in better condition and Ward had sized up his audience. He knew what they wanted and he let them have it with all his punch, pep and humor. He was in good form, knew it and made the most of it. And when he said his speech the Portsmouthians cheered some more.

The occasion was a banquet given by the Portsmouth Branch of the Virginia Good Roads Association in honor of the Virginia State Highway Commission. It was the occasion of that Commission's first visit to Portsmouth. Portsmouth was out to do them honor and, incidentally to let them know what Portsmouth wanted at the hands of the Commission. And what Portsmouth wants and is determined to get is a hard surfaced road connecting the city of Portsmouth with the city of Elizabeth City, via Deep Creek, Va., the Dismal Swamp Canal and South Mills, N. C. The route is nearly an airline and puts Elizabeth City ten miles nearer Norfolk and Portsmouth than any other route. Pasquotank is building a brick road from Elizabeth City to a point in upper Pasquotank near South Mills. More than three miles of this road has already been constructed and the work is proceeding rapidly. It is proposed to tie this road with the State Highway system via Gates county. The building of the Dismal Swamp road then eventually means much, not only to the Virginians and the people of upper Pasquotank and Camden counties, but to the people of Gates and other counties as well.

And Portsmouth wants to connect up with North Carolina. Portsmouth city has already appropriated \$20,000 to build a good dirt road seven miles long from Deep Creek, Va. to the North Carolina line, on the banks of the Dismal Swamp Canal. South Mills township in Camden county has bonded for \$50,000 and will issue and her people will underwrite enough of these bonds to build a good dirt road from South Mills to the Virginia line, also to the canal, to cement road from Deep Creek to Portsmouth. We are building a brick road from Elizabeth City to South Mills nearby. It is less than 42 miles from Elizabeth City to Portsmouth via South Mills, the canal bank and Deep Creek.

Portsmouth conceived the idea of a national coast line highway from Washington, D. C. to the Florida Everglades, and Portsmouth enterprise made the Dismal Swamp canal route a link in that projected national highway. A bill embodying this idea was introduced in Congress and was killed in the Senate. But it just shows how important those Portsmouthians regard this Dismal Swamp route.

And so the object of the banquet in Portsmouth last Thursday night was to interest the Virginia Highway Commission in that Dismal Swamp Road. Portsmouth wants that road included in the Virginia state highway system and made a hard surfaced road. How much of an impression they made upon the highway commissioners is problematical, of course; but something of an impression was made.

Friday following the banquet the Portsmouthians took the Commissioners over the proposed route, using automobiles from Portsmouth to Deep Creek and a launch from Deep Creek to the North Carolina line, via the canal.

Several North Carolinians were guests of the Portsmouthians Thursday night. They were Hon. H. S. Ward, Mayor of Washington; W. L. Cohoon and W. O. Saunders, of Elizabeth City; D. E. Williams, Charles Williams, Frank Riggs and W. I. Halstead, of South Mills.

The Master plumbers of North Carolina will meet in annual session in Goldsboro, April 21 and 22.

Hon. A. F. Lever himself, of the Federal Farm Loan Board, and author of the famous Lever Act, will be one of the principal speakers at the convention of the North Carolina Drainage Association which meets in Elizabeth City next Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12 and 13. The coming of Mr. Lever is expected to bring hundreds of farmers to the convention, because he will talk not so much upon drainage as upon the question of federal loans for farmers. It takes money to finance even a drainage project and the subject uppermost in the minds of the agricultural classes at this time is money. Mr. Lever speaks Tuesday morning, shortly after the opening of the convention. The farmers of the nation will listen thru the press to hear what he has to say in Elizabeth City.

A cordial invitation to the farmers of this section to hear Mr. Lever and attend the sessions of the convention is extended by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Drainage Convention which holds its sessions here next week will bring to Elizabeth City the greatest gathering of eminent statesmen, engineers, capitalists and agricultural experts ever assembled in Elizabeth City. Big men are on the program of every session of that convention.

Mark W. Potter of the Interstate Commerce Commission and owner of the Potter Farms, will be here to tell about the dairying possibilities of eastern North Carolina and of the successful development of a large scale thorough live stock industry on the Potter Farms.

Dr. T. H. D. Griffiths of the U. S. Public Health Service; S. H. McCrory, drainage engineer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, director of the North Carolina Geological and Geodetic Survey; Clarence Pog of the Progress Farmer; W. A. McGirt, manager of the N. C. Landowners' Association and member of the State Highway Commission; Major W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture; H. M. Lynde, F. P. Bartel, W. P. Pate and others from the Department of Agriculture. And Josephus Daniels is expected to be here.

## A Working Convention.

Hon. John H. Small, president of the Association, and Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, secretary, were in Elizabeth City this week in conference with Secretary R. C. Job of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce. The convention will be held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms and the Chamber of Commerce will look after the comfort and entertainment of visitors.

The proposed trip to the delegates has been abandoned. This convention is coming to Elizabeth City on big business and the visitors want it understood that they are more interested in the convention than in sight-seeing trips. They will not have time for a trip to the Dismal Swamps, the Potter Farms, the Moyock Drainage District or elsewhere. They will take a short steamer trip down the river and will submit to a banquet to be given them by the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night. The banquet will be at the Southern Hotel and music and other forms of entertainment will accompany the feast.

This newspaper gives considerable space to the Drainage Convention this week because it is an event of immense interest and of special value to the agricultural interests of this section. Since this drainage association was organized more than 150 drainage projects have been put thru and more than 600,000 acres of desert and inundated lands reclaimed. There are hundreds of thousands of other acres to be reclaimed and drainage is yet to be employed extensively in improving millions of acres of lands already in cultivation. In fact the convention next week will deal largely with the question of making drainage serve the needs of that larger class of farmers whose cultivated lands are not properly drained and can never be water off one farm to put it on another. Great areas like the Newland section of Pasquotank, for instance, need drainage canals miles in length to carry off heavy rainfalls which literally drown them out every three or four years.

More about the convention and the work of the Drainage Association will be found in a special illustrated article on the subject prepared especially for this newspaper by Director Pratt.